



NH's State Committee on Aging

May 2, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Russ Armstrong, Norma Brettell, Candace Cole-McCrea, Rep. Susan Emerson, Larry Flint, Mark Frank, Sherri Harden, Bob Ritchie, Joan Schulze

Excused: Richard Crocker, Herb Johnson

Guests: Christina Burgess, Kate McNalley, Sandra Meteivier NH Healthy Families, Carol Sanderson, Tracey Tarr DHHS, Jim Thompson

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by Mark Frank. Attendees introduced themselves.

Motion to approve the April 4, 2016 meeting minutes, motion was approved.

Tobacco Free Communities – Kate McNally

Kate has been in tobacco prevention and control for twelve years, former smoker. Approximately eighteen hundred people die each day from tobacco use. Four hundred and thirty thousand people die each year from tobacco related illnesses and fifty thousand people dying each year from exposure of second hand smoke. This is higher than any other preventable cause of death combined. The rate for aids, suicide, murder, car accidents, accidental overdoses, all of those preventable causes of death combined do not equal the number of people who are dying from tobacco use. In New Hampshire alone about nine hundred people die each year from tobacco related illnesses.

People who can afford to smoke the least are the ones who are smoking the most. Fifty percent of the tobacco that is consumed in the world is consumed by folks with a mental illness. In the sixties there was a drop in tobacco sales due to the surgeon general's report on the harmful effects smoking has. Master settle agreement came out in 1988; this was when the state took the tobacco companies to court after a whistle blower came out and said that tobacco companies have been lying about the claims that tobacco is not addictive. As the result of the law suit many states are receiving funds from the tobacco industry, New Hampshire gets about three million a year for tobacco cessation and to prevent youth from smoking until 2003, then the state decided to put the money into the general fund. Now NH spends 125,000 dollars on tobacco cessation and that is dedicated to the NH Quit line.

The NH Quit line is a toll free 1-800-Quit-Now and any one in the state of NH can call to get phone support, you get 4 sessions free and also for eligible callers can get free nicotine patches for up to 4 - 6 weeks. There were 13 tobacco preventions coalitions in the state.

Keene was the first city in the state to create an ordinance to ban all smoking in restaurants. In 2003 the highest court in NH overturn the ordinance because of preemption, there cannot be a law that is stronger than the state's law. But the restaurants in Keene voluntarily remained tobacco free. The Indoor Clean Act happened around 2007, and all work sites became smoke free unless the company employed fewer than 4 people. Privet clubs were also exempt. More veterans have died from smocking related illness then any other wars combined.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) passed some rules to making housing complexes, apartment units to be smoke free. Most housing authorities have voluntarily gone to smoke free. A community health grant was given to Healthy Monadenock initiative to create a directory where tenants can find smoke free housing and landlords can advertise on the directory as well.

Legislation

SB 553 – Relative to implementation to of the Medicaid managed care program-- declares that phase 2, step 2 of the program shall not be implemented until July 1st of 2017 and until it is approved by the legislative fiscal committee. SCOA testified in support of the bill. Passed 23-0 in the Senate. Now in the House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs (HHHSEA) Committee. Commissioner of DHHS testified and indicated that some laws would need to be changed regarding nursing home reimbursement before DHHS could move forward with managed care for long term supports and services. Also, at this point, DHHS did not have a fully developed plan to share with the public and to operationalize for these services within managed care. To be reported out of the HHSEA on 5/5/16.

SB 364 - Establishing a committee to study the feasibility of incorporating complete streets into the 10-year transportation improvement plan. Passed the Senate and is now in the House. Due out of the House Public Works and Highways Committee on 5/5/16 with a Floor Date of 5/11/16.

SB 395 - Relative to minimum housing standards for tenants with health or respiratory issues. This bill has been referred to interim study by the Senate.

SB 426 - Establishing an end of life choices study commission. Passed by the Senate. Now in the House. Rich sent an email to the House Judiciary Chair, and as of 4/30 has not heard back from him. Catholic Church has publicly opposed the bill. Bill due out of committee on 5/5/16.

SB 432 - Relative to itemized bills for medical services. Passed by the Senate with amendment. Now in the House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee. Due out of committee on 5/5/16.

SB 434 - Relative to prior authorizations for prescription medicine. Referred to interim study by the Senate.

SB 471 - Relative to persons parking with disabilities. Passed by the Senate with amendment. Now in the House Transportation Committee. Due out of committee on 5/5/16.

SB 491 - Relative to Medicaid home health care services. Senate passed with amendment. Allows Medicaid home health services to be provided outside of the residence in which normal life activities take place. Hearing 4/7/16 in the HHHSEA Committee. This bill parallels changes at the federal level. Now in the House Finance Committee and due out of the committee on 5/5/16.

HB 1138 - Relative to access to investigational drugs, biological products, and devices. Passed House with amendment. Now in Senate Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee. Bill establishes "Terminal Patients' Right to Try" such products. Report filed and due out of the committee on 5/5/16.

HB 1165 - Changing "incapacitated" to "vulnerable" in the adult protective services laws. Passed the House with amendment. Passed the Senate.

HB 1180 - Relative to the authority of towns to issue bonds for the expansion of Internet service. Majority voted to inexpedient to legislate.

HB 1257 - Relative to revocation or suspension of a driver's license because of physical impairment. Inexpedient to legislate by the House.

HB 1310 - Establishing a commission to study health care for all residents of New Hampshire. Referred to interim study by the House.

HB 1316 - Relative to hospital rates for self-pay patients. Passed the House. Now in Senate HHS Committee.

New Hampshire State Committee on Aging (SCOA)

HB 1378 - Relative to disabled voters requiring assistance. Passed the House with amendment. Amendment allows a voter, who appears at a polling place, under oath to the moderator, to ask for an absentee ballot when unable to access a polling place due to a physical disability. Passed the Senate as amended.

HB 1407 - Establishing a property tax credit for persons providing certain home health care services for a family member. Inexpedient to legislate by the House.

HB 1696 - Requesting a modification of the New Hampshire health protection program. Passed the House with amendment. Passed the Senate. Signed by the Governor.

Regional Updates

Coos County – Mark Frank

Mark attends area resources teams committee unfortunately there has not been a meeting since October 2015. Mark will be chairing the committee, and the next meeting is on May 16.

Sullivan County – Larry Flint

Sullivan Advocates are now meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The new chairman is from Servicelink.

Susan Emerson –

Jim McKay has not had a mental health meeting for several months. So there is no report at this time.

Tracey Tarr –

Maryann Cooney has left DHHS. In the interim all the programs under Maryann are reporting to Deputy Commissioner Marilee Nihan. Tracey has recommended that SCOA see the 9 to 90 documentary. Hopefully at the June meeting we will watch it. Mark would like to have this view by all interested DHHS staff.

Membership Report –

Out of the advertisement, 6 people responded, 1 has submitted their application to the Governor, and 1 has withdrawn. Many committee members' terms end in June. Mark was in touch with Katherine George she says to "when submitting your paperwork for your second term you can email your paper work to her to be processed and you must contact your executive council for your county". Bob Ritchie, Sherri Harden, and Richard Crocker terms all end in June.

Next meeting is on June 6, 2016 10:00am to 12:00pm

New Hampshire State Committee on Aging (SCOA)